

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A fluid transfer device, comprising:

a lid portion;

an edge portion connected to the lid portion, the edge portion and lid portion forming a receiving cap, the receiving cap defining a space configured to receive a bead of a container closed by an elastic stopper, the edge portion being configured to center the bead within the space when the bead is substantially disposed in the space; and

a piercing mandrel connected to the lid portion and projecting into the space,

wherein the piercing mandrel includes a piercing portion configured to pierce the elastic stopper when the bead is substantially disposed in the space;

wherein the piercing mandrel includes a sealing portion having a diameter greater than a diameter of the piercing portion, the sealing portion being configured to contact the elastic stopper when the bead is substantially disposed in the space;

wherein the piercing mandrel includes a flow channel therethrough, the flow channel being configured to convey fluid away from the container.

13. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 12, wherein the receiving cap includes a central longitudinal axis,

wherein the receiving cap is substantially symmetrical about the central longitudinal axis.

14. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 12, wherein the diameter of the piercing mandrel as it transitions from the front piercing portion to the sealing portion is stepped.

15. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 12, wherein the sealing portion of the piercing mandrel includes an end face,

wherein the end face is configured such that when the bead is substantially disposed in the space, the interface between the end face and the elastic stopper has a substantially annular shape.

16. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 12, wherein the sealing portion of the piercing mandrel is configured to penetrate the elastic stopper when the bead is substantially disposed in the space.

17. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 12, wherein the edge portion includes an inward projection configured to engage a behind portion of the bead when the bead is substantially disposed in the space.

18. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 17, wherein a first axial distance between the inward projection and the sealing portion is less than a second axial

distance between the inward projection and a surface of the elastic stopper facing the lid portion when the bead is substantially in the space.

19. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 15, wherein the end face includes an integrated sealing element.

20. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 19, wherein the sealing element is an O-ring.

21. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 12, wherein the piercing portion of the piercing mandrel is substantially conically shaped and widens toward the sealing portion.

22. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 12, wherein the sealing portion of the piercing mandrel is a substantially conically shaped and adjoins the piercing portion of the piercing mandrel.

23. (New) The fluid transfer device of claim 12, wherein a transition between the sealing portion of the piercing mandrel and the piercing portion of the piercing mandrel is substantially stepless.